

SHAKER HOUSE

iii

huge boxes Shaker Seeds
in bold letters the
first packaged seeds

red beets lavender
2000 lbs of seeds

wove huge baskets to carry
in the grass
herbs and petals
dark purple gooseberry blood

fingers deep in the
moist dark pulling

did they talk to the leaves
as if they were children
to get the
largest cucumbers
the biggest strawberry

ix

this room for
the children
their parents

it feels like
water blue
flowers

braiding spinning
reading straight

wood rockers bent
wood rockers
rockers with
spindlebacks the
men and women
singing together

samples in their
blood stitched
don't touch

xxiv

in one case

needles gloves
worn slippers lined
with fleece they
raised flax in
cherry valley
wove raised
their silk worms

pink silk scarf
this blue one

bone and ivory
buttons no
rings

a wedding handkerchief

sampler stitched
i shall not want

if they'd just married

xxvi

lives like their
chairs simple
functional

a taste for
primary colors
for using

no luxury, waste

living like wheels in
a delicate machine
they loved